

costumes and sets. The theater program has twice been invited by the American High School Theatre Festival to perform at the Fringe Festival in Edinburgh, Scotland.

Students said they are thrilled, but not surprised, that their district won the Kennedy Center award.

Sari Weintraub, 17, a junior at Niles West who plays oboe, described her school's concerts as a multimedia affair, complete with audiovisual presentations and musicians who move around the auditorium for a "surround sound" effect.

"He likes to incorporate everything," she said of her band director.

"It keeps people from getting bored."

Fox was one of three students chosen as a member of the Niles North "director's circle" this year.

After being selected through an extensive audition, the circle members produce and perform the first play the following school year. In return, they serve the theater department, completing tasks and mentoring other students, throughout the rest of the year. "He will push you as far as you can possibly go," Fox said. "He wants you to be the best. And once you get there, no one will give you more respect than he will. It's tough love. He wants to see us succeed."

TRIBUTE TO RABBI JONATHAN JAFFE BERNHARD

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 17, 2007

Mr. BERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my good friend Rabbi Jonathan Jaffe Bernhard in recognition of his installation as Senior Rabbi of Adat Ari El. As a long-time member of the synagogue, I know firsthand of his excellent work and outstanding accomplishments, and have been the beneficiary of his ability to offer solace and comfort at difficult times.

Jonathan Bernhard was born in Great Neck, Long Island, NY. From age seven to fourteen, he lived with his parents in London and then they returned to make their home in Manhattan. His interest in Judaism was sparked by reading Elie Wiesel's book, "Night." While attending Haverford College, he majored in religious studies and he also worked on a Kibbutz. After receiving his BA in 1988, he traveled to Los Angeles to attend Brandeis-Bardein Summer Institute and then continued extensive studies at Yeshiva (Yeshivat Hamivtar) in Efrat on the West Bank.

Jonathan's experiences in Israel inspired him to become an observant Jew. He wanted to become a professor of religion when he moved back to the United States. While living in Boston, he rekindled his friendship with Laurie Jaffe who encouraged him to pursue the rabbinate. They met at Brandeis-Bardein Institute in California in 1988.

Upon completing his studies at the Jewish Theological Seminary, Rabbi Bernhard was ordained in 1996 and took a position at Adat Ari El. Adat Ari El is in the heart of my congressional district and was the first conservative synagogue in the San Fernando Valley. Rabbi Bernhard is at the spiritual center of the Congregation and deserves commendation for his dedication to Jewish principles, education and culture. He continues to create and maintain a wonderful sense of Jewish community by help-

ing provide an Early Childhood Center, Day School, Religious Schools, Adult Education and Sisterhood programs as well as Holiday services, daily Minyan services and the life cycle services (weddings, funerals, baby namings, bar/bat mitzvahs, unveilings.)

Jonathan and Laurie married in 1992 and they are proud parents of three sons, Nathaniel, Micah and Elijah.

I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting and honoring Rabbi Bernhard for his invaluable role at Adat Ari El and within the Jewish community, and wishing him our fervent hope for continued success.

IN RECOGNITION OF RICHARD BERNSTEIN, THE JEWISH COM- MUNITY RELATIONS COUNCIL'S 2007 ACTIVIST OF THE YEAR

HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 17, 2007

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Madam Speaker, I want to recognize the accomplishments of Richard Bernstein and congratulate him as he receives the Jewish Community Relations Council's Activist of the Year Award for 2007. His unparalleled dedication to upholding and defending the rights of the disabled is a priceless commodity to the citizens of the State of Michigan.

Mr. Bernstein has been an inspiration to many throughout his career. Blind since birth, he is a graduate of the University of Michigan and Northwestern University Law School and currently serves as an attorney with the Law Offices of Sam Bernstein in Farmington Hills. His tireless work ethic and advocacy for disabled rights and the public interest has ensured that the disabled have an equal footing with the entire community. His penchant for running marathons epitomizes his work ethic; he does not shy away from daunting tasks and knows how to finish them.

I am proud to have been able to work with Mr. Bernstein to help blind and dyslexic students to access textbooks and keep up with students that can read the printed word. After securing federal funding, Mr. Bernstein and I were able to work together with the Recording for the Blind and Dyslexic—Michigan Unit to provide blind and dyslexic students access to audio texts so that they can learn and succeed in school, providing them with the knowledge and skills to find jobs after graduation. This important work underscores Mr. Bernstein's commitment to helping the disabled achieve an equal footing in our society.

Madam Speaker, Richard Bernstein has been and will continue to be a pillar for our community. I congratulate him upon receiving this well-deserved award and look forward to working with him in the future as he continues to devote his work to bettering the lives of so many.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA OF ARMY SPECIALIST JOHN D. FLORES OF GUAM

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 17, 2007

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today in remembrance and recognition of United States Army Specialist John D. Flores of Barrigada, Guam. Specialist Flores died on May 3, 2007, as a result to injuries sustained when his unit came under attack in Baghdad, Iraq. SPC Flores was 21 years old. He is the tenth son of Guam to make the ultimate sacrifice for his country in the ongoing war on terror. The loss of an outstanding soldier like Specialist Flores is grave for the entire Nation. But the pain of John's passing is most severely felt by Guam and its people—his beloved home and neighbors.

SPC John Flores was a fine soldier who, like many before him from Guam, served the United States and our community with selfless dedication. He answered our country's call to duty and he made the ultimate sacrifice in our defense.

John was not only a dedicated soldier, but also a kind and generous person, a devoted husband, and a loving father. He had been married to his wife Charlene for just over a year. They graduated together from George Washington High School in 2004. John was immensely proud of, and loved dearly, his daughter, Chloe. His family will always remember him being a young man who celebrated life to its fullest and one who possessed maturity beyond his years. His love for his family, his devotion to his island, and his dedication to his country and flag will always serve as an outstanding role model for and inspiration to his family, friends, and future generations of Guam soldiers.

I was deeply saddened to learn of Specialist Flores's passing, as I have been for all of the servicemembers from our island and communities across the United States who have given their lives in service to our country. I join the people of Guam and all Americans in offering my most sincere condolences and heartfelt prayers to SPC John Flores' family, friends, and fellow soldiers during this difficult time. In particular, on behalf of a grateful country, I extend my deepest sympathies to John's wife, Charlene, and his daughter, Chloe. Our country and our island owe Specialist Flores and his loved ones an unpayable debt of gratitude for the sacrifice they have made on our behalf.

John was an admirable son of Guam, a proud American soldier. He proved that he was willing and prepared to defend his country and his home island, no matter what the price. He lost his life in the noble effort to rebuild a nation in freedom so that others might some day know the joys of liberty and justice. And for that sacrifice, we are eternally grateful. God Bless John Flores, and God Bless our great country, the United States of America.